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Letter dated 20 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to the letter dated 19 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2002/941), and on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to outline the position of the Government of Rwanda in the light of what the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its Permanent Representative to the United Nations refer to as "large-scale military operations which Rwanda has been conducting for several days in the Congolese province of South Kivu".

The allegations by the Congolese Government constitute further proof of its bad faith in addressing the crisis that has been afflicting the Great Lakes region for four years. While the Government of Rwanda has never ceased to demonstrate its commitment to withdraw its troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo once its security concerns have been acknowledged and taken into consideration by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the international community, the Congolese Government has not made any gesture on the ground to help restore the climate of confidence between our respective Governments. Here are a few acts that demonstrate the lack of commitment by the Congolese Government to the implementation of the Pretoria Agreement:

(1) Since the signing of the Pretoria Agreement, the Congolese Government has continued supporting the former armed forces of Rwanda and the Interahamwe militias;

(2) The Congolese Government has continued dropping weapons and ammunition in the areas of Kazimya, Lulimba, Salamabila, Minembwe and Nzovu. Those areas are well known by MONUC and the Joint Military Commission as positions of the former armed forces of Rwanda and the Interahamwe militias;

(3) Several documents (identity cards of the Congolese armed forces) seized on the battlefield prove that the Congolese armed forces are involved alongside the former armed forces of Rwanda and the Interahamwe militias;

(4) The extremely venomous and provocative political statements by the Congolese Government are not helping to calm the situation and normalize relations between our two countries, as witness the statements by the Congolese Minister for

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Foreign Affairs before the Security Council on 8 August 2002, during the meeting on the Pretoria Peace Agreement.

As a result of the situation being perpetuated by the Congolese authorities, the threats from the coalition between the former armed forces of Rwanda, the Interahamwe militias and the Congolese armed forces are continuing to pose a threat to Rwanda. The Rwandan Government is thus obliged to fight them in their South Kivu strongho'ds so as to prevent them from crossing the Rwandan border.

It is obvious from the preceding that the Congolese Government is failing to honour its promises under the Pretoria Peace Agreement and is violating paragraphs 6, 7, 8.1, 8.2 and 8.10, which constitute indispensable conditions for the restoration of peace in the Great Lakes region.

The Congolese Government, fearing that the Government of Rwanda might refer the matter to a third party, has rushed to portray itself as the victim of a situation of its own making, with the unavowed aim of sowing confusion and vindicating itself in the eyes of the third party and in the eyes of the international community. This is a case of the wolf itself crying wolf.

In the light of the above, the Government of Rwanda reiterates its firm commitment to a comprehensive peace in the Great Lakes region and its commitment to withdraw its troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo once the threat from the former armed forces of Rwanda and the Interahamwe militias has been removed.

In the meantime, my Government calls on the Security Council:

(1) To put pressure on the Congolese authorities to behave like responsible politicians who respect their commitments to their neighbours and to the international community;

(2) To get the Congolese authorities to respect all the provisions of the Pretoria Peace Agreement, specifically the provisions on Rwanda's security concerns;

(3) To pressure the Congolese Government to stop supplying weapons and ammunition to the former armed forces of Rwanda and the Interahamwe militias;

(4) To remind the Congolese Government that it has an obligation to respect the various Security Council resolutions calling on it to cease all moral, political, material and financial support for the former armed forces of Rwanda and the Interahamwe militias.

My Government would be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Anastase **Gasana**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative